TRENDS

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 24 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 1.5 percent above the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 21 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 356.8 billion ton-miles, virtually the same as the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 24 totaled 394,856, up 0.2 percent from last year, and 1.1 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 6.5 percent in the West, but down 6.5 percent in the East, and 4.9 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 10 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up by 1,529 cars (11.2 percent) and grain posted a gain of 1,189 cars (6.4 percent). Coal loadings were down by 9,375 cars (7.8 percent). Sixteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 17 totaled 100,102 trailers and/or containers, 17.8 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 20 weeks of the year was 1,965,978 trailers and/or containers, up 16.8 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/24/86:

	Loadings in Week ended May 24, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,786	I	1,189	6.4	I	1,352	7.3
Other farm products	4,042	I	445	12.4	I	36	0.9
Metallic ores	19,959	D	283	1.4	I	595	3.1
Coal	110,432	D	9,375	7.8	I	6	0.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,205	I	1,529	11.2	I	73	0.5
Nonmetallic minerals	9,005	D	2,432	21.3	D	875	8.9
Grain mill products	10,545	I	289	2.8	I	146	1.4
Food and kindred products	11,211	I	173	1.6	I	215	2.0
Primary forest products	10,467	D	1,553	12.9	I	394	3.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,386	I	316	3.9	I	320	4.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,768	D	1,404	9.9	D	359	2.7
Chemicals and allied products	25,184	I	605	2.5	I	636	2.6
Petroleum products	4,885	I	31	0.6	I	52	1.1
Stone, clay and glass products	10,721	D	802	7.0	D	35	0.3
Coke	4,439	D	729	14.1	D	324	6.8
Metals and products	8,971	D	375	4.0	I	379	4.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,917	D	572	2.5	I	33	0.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,664	I	69	0.8	I	270	3.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,993	D	3,317	52.6	I	139	4.9
All other carloads	75,186	I	16,875	28.9	I	1,098	1.5
LCL traffic	90	D	60	40.0	D	14	13.5
Total Cars Loaded	394,856	I	619	0.2	I	4,137	1.1

Corresponding week of 1985 394,237

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (21 weeks)	7,873,644	7,877,984	D 0.1

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

20 Weeks ended May 17	(Rev.) 339.1	339.3	D	0.1
Week ended May 24	17.7	17.4	I	1.5
21 weeks cumulative	356.8	356.8	I	0.0

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